



# Changing Futures

The streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, teem with children. They shine shoes, sell gum, and do whatever they can to survive. Unfortunately, these kids are vulnerable to traffickers.

Child slavery is big business in Ethiopia, where almost 400,000 people, mostly women and children, are held against their will and forced to work in ways they do not choose, for no pay or extremely low pay. Often children or teens from impoverished rural areas go to the city to find work, but end up being tricked or lured into forced labor.

For several years, Amanuel Light & Life Free Methodist Church in Meganagna, a sub-city of Addis, has been supporting 50 orphans and impoverished children in their neighborhood. Many of these kids have lost one or both of their parents to HIV/AIDS. Compassionate church members have volunteered their time every Saturday to run a program with tutoring, games, singing and lunch. They have done what they could to pay school fees for the children, since the greatest safeguard for children is to be in school and be preparing for a better future.



# in Addis Ababa

They and their families and church members will also learn about trafficking and will be empowered against exploiters.

ICCM's Freedom Sunday offering will provide funds to staff the project and purchase necessary equipment. The

ripple effect of this intervention will benefit the children, their families, their church and their community.

We are honored to be a part of the Set Free Movement, joining forces with others to blow the whistle on human trafficking and do all we can to prevent it. We encourage churches to observe Freedom Sunday to expose this evil and join in prayerful community action to combat it in all its forms. ICCM is committed to holistic development of children, strengthening them and their families and preventing them from being easy prey.

To learn more about this project, watch ["The Addis Project"](#) on our website. For a powerful music video, see ["Prayer of the Children"](#) on our website.

To sponsor one of these children or receive a Church Action Kit to present this project at your church, please call 800-342-5531 ext. 502.



Map of Ethiopia with names in Amharic, the national language.

The pastor, Superintendent Mekebib, has asked ICCM for help, as the needs are overwhelming. ICCM's 2016 Freedom Sunday project will partner with this church. Sponsoring these children will give them the benefit of education, meals, after school tutoring, child development activities and ac-



Linda with lively Ethiopian kids in 2014.



*Note: Nova wrote this two years ago. On Dec. 6, 2015, she tragically died in a fire. She is missed throughout the Philippines and by all of us who knew and loved her. She was an amazing and gifted young woman. Nova is pictured at left with a sponsored child and at right, second from the right, with her ICCM co-workers in Door of Hope, Davao City.*



## “I’m Nova Havana Nuez and this is my Success Story”

I begin with thanksgiving, thanking God that I was raised in a Christian home with two good parents and was introduced to God at a young age. I don’t remember a specific day when I first accepted Christ, but it was probably in one of our camps when I was 12 years old that I fully understood the gift of salvation.

I grew up as a PK (a pastor’s kid). Growing up, I watched my parents undergo a lot of sacrifices and hardship in their ministry; God was real, and was doing something real in their lives. I was challenged and inspired to taste and see, so I become a pastor like them.

My papa died when I was 14. I am sure he’s proud of us for the legacy that continues in me and now in my brother. Being a PK has given me the privilege to avail ICCM sponsorship and scholarship. ICCM has afforded me an opportunity to be who I am. My life has been changed and helped through ICCM.

I’m so happy I’ve been able to give back as one of the staff in an ICCM project, the Door of Hope. What I do is amazingly challenging yet rewarding. Being a Project Director was really a huge responsibility for me and at the same time I am a part-time Assistant in the National Office. My first thought was not to accept that job, but God assured me, “I can do all things THROUGH HIM who will strengthen me.” Indeed a challenge was given and accepted. There may be some

hard times but there’s also great joy in serving God by engaging in the lives of the children. I also learned to improve my communication and leadership skills every day with everyone I meet. I learned to be a cheerleader, an encourager and a listener. I love the fact that I did it! Thank God! It was far from my personality – I was a shy and a silent one. He is really a God of Transformation.

What I like most being part of this is all the people I work with and the friendships I have developed. The atmosphere of working together is one factor that encourages me, and to have that heart and vision to help these young ones succeed. Being here year after year was a humbling experience with the best and expanding friendships. The respect and trust have always had an indescribable and positive effect on me.

What I am most grateful for is to be one of the workers here in ICCM. I am proud of it. Most of all I am so blessed and thankful for the guidance of all the people I look up to, my mentors and co-workers. Their availability and support has truly made a huge difference and made me feel not alone.

Thank you ICCM Family, for the gift of being there, for the trust given to me. I thank God every day for these wonderful experiences I have and will be ahead. There will be millions more children to be touched and changed and shared of God’s love through ICCM. Cheers!! Blessings.

